

Trans / W. G. Stearns, Esq.
Boston
Sep. 8/38.
Recd. 11th.
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paid.
PAID
J. M. Patterson Esq.
Director of the Mint.

Philadelphia.

MASS. HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Boston, Sept. 8, 1838.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 1st inst. was duly received. You will please accept my thanks for your kind and prompt attention to my inquiries.

As to the collection which Mr. DuRoi is forming for me, I shall adopt your suggestion, and let it remain until it is more complete, or, at least, until I have an opportunity of sending to Phila. by a private hand.

I thought it highly probable that the small silver coin mentioned in my last letter was what your chief coin supposed it to be, - Provincial, - until I happened to see, yesterday, in the Cabinet of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a perfect specimen. It turned out to be Dutch. On the side, which, in the piece in my possession, is worn quite smooth, is the word (in three lines) "Hal - lan - dia". The date is 1760.

In answer to your question whether my fancy leads me to make a collection of foreign coins, - I have to say, that I have a very miscellaneous collection of silver coins, perhaps 700 or 800, - and about as many of Copper; but none of gold. My principal reason for omitting to lay aside the few gold coins which have come in my way, is, that the investment of money would be too great for my limited

means. I should be willing to confine my collection of foreign coins (with few exceptions) to those of Great Britain and France; and if any gold coins of these countries, (other than those of a very recent date) should come in your way, - I should be glad to obtain them, - unless some one has prior claims: say English coins of Queen Anne or of any earlier reign, - and French of Louis 14, or earlier. I suppose, however, that the foreign coins sent to the mint are, generally, of a very recent date.

I am very glad to receive a Commission from you, to procure foreign coins for your use; and you may be assured that I shall do every thing in my power to accomplish the object.

I have requested several of our specie bankers and receiving tellers at our banks to lay aside any coins which you ask for, - if they should come into their hands. I fear, however, that the chance of procuring them here is small.

I think I shall be able to get a complete collection of the coins of modern Greece, - but perhaps not in season for the purpose for which you may want them. Still, as they will cost, if I can procure them, only the intrinsic value, - I shall make the attempt. My friend Professor Cotton, of Cambridge, is intimately acquainted and corresponds with Mr. Perdicaris, the American Consul at Athens; and

I doubt not that, in time, I shall be able to obtain the desired specimens as far as the Greek Coinage is concerned, & and, possibly, some coins of Egypt and Turkey.

Since I saw the contents of the Cabinet of the Historical Society here, (a Society, by the way, devoted exclusively, I believe, to the collection of materials for American History,) I have felt a stronger desire than ever to make a complete collection of our own coins.

I found, on a hasty examination, only a single coin struck since the establishment of the U. S. mint: a solitary half eagle of 1795.

Very respectfully

Your obliged servant.

W. G. Stearns.

A. M. Patterson Esq.
Mint of the U. S.
Phil a.

RG104 Entry 1 Box 19 Sep 1838

September 8, 1838

R. M. Patterson, Esq.
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

Dear Sir,

Your very obliging letter of the 1st inst., was duly received. You will please accept my thanks for your kind and prompt attention to my inquiries.

As to the collection which Mr. DuBois is forming for me, I shall adopt your suggestion, and let it remain until it is more complete, or, at least, until I have an opportunity of sending to Philadelphia by a private hand.

I thought it highly probable that the small silver coin mentioned in my last letter was what your Chief Coiner supposed it to be – provincial – until I happened to see, yesterday, in the cabinet of the Massachusetts historical Society, a perfect specimen. It turned out to be Dutch. On the side, which, in the piece in my possession, is worn quite smooth, is the word (in three lines) “Hol-lan-dia.” The date is 1760.

In answer to your question whether my family leads me to make a collection of foreign coins, I have to say, that I have a very miscellaneous collection of silver coins, perhaps 700 or 800, and about as many of copper; but none of gold. My principal reason for omitting to lay aside the few gold coins which have come in my way, is, that the investment of money would be too great for my limited means. I should be willing to confine my collection of foreign coins (with few exceptions) to those of Great Britain and France; and if any gold coins of those countries (other than those of a very recent date) should come in your way, I should be glad to obtain them, unless some one had prior claims: say English coins of Queen Anne or of any earlier reign, and French of Louis 14, or earlier. I suppose, however, that the foreign coins sent to the Mint are, generally, of a very recent date.

I am very glad to receive a commission from you, to provide foreign coins for you use, and you may be assured that I shall do every thing in my power to accomplish the object.

I have requested several of our specie brokers and receiving tellers at our banks to lay aside any coins which you ask for, if they should come into their hands. I feel, however, that the chance of procuring them here is small.

I think I shall be able to get a complete collection of the coin of modern Greece, but perhaps not in season for the purpose for which you may want them. Still, as they will cost, if I can procure them, only the intrinsic value, I shall make the attempt. My friend Professor Fulton, of Cambridge, is intimately acquainted and corresponds with Mr. Perdicaris, the American Counsel at Athens, and I doubt not that, in time, I shall be able to obtain the desired specimens as far as the Greek coinage is considered, and, possibly, some coins of Egypt and Turkey.

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Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. G. Stearns
Boston, Mass